

Application No.: 09/656,310

Docket No.: 04783/016001

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-14 and 18-40 were pending in the present application. Claims 35 and 37-40 have been cancelled by this reply without prejudice or disclaimer. Of the remaining claims, claims 1, 18, and 36 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 18.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1, 18, and 36 have been amended to clarify that the print is configured to: (i) send, in response to a request from the host device, information corresponding to a number of print objects the printer can simultaneously handle; (ii) receive, from the host device, a first print setting information and a number of object identifiers corresponding to the number of print objects the printer can simultaneously handle, wherein each of the number of object identifiers is associated with one of a plurality of print objects; (iii) request print object data for each of the plurality of print objects using the number of object identifiers; (iv) receive the print object data for each of the plurality of print objects from the host; and (v) print the plurality of print objects using the print object data for each of the plurality of print objects and the first print setting information. Support for the aforementioned amendments may be found, for example, on pages 37-38 and Figure 31 of the instant application.

In addition, independent claims 1, 18, and 36 as well as dependent claims 3, 5, 6, 9-11, 13-14, 20-23, 25-28, and 30-33 have been amended to address antecedent basis issues arising

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from the aforementioned amendments to independent claims 1, 18, and 36. Further, dependent claims 3-5, 11, 19, and 20 have been amended to address minor clarity issues. No new matter has been added by any of the aforementioned amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,184,996 ("Gase") in view of U.S. Patent 6,061,738 ("Osaku"). Claim 39 has been cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

Claims 1-5 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pipeline Corporation, "*The hard copy observer*," March 1997 ("Pipeline") in view of Gase, U.S. Patent No. 6,018,515 ("Sorber"), and Osaku. To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

"To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." (MPEP § 2143).

Turning to the rejection, the independent claims have been amended to clarify that the print is configured to send, to the host, information corresponding to the number of print objects the print can simultaneously handle. For example, the printer may be configured to handle 20 print objects simultaneously. Thus, when requested by the host, the print conveys this information to the host. In this manner, the host, which is sending requests for object identifiers, is made aware of the number of object identifiers it may request from the printer at any given

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time. Further, if the host attempts to request 30 object identifiers (each of which is to be associated with print objects), the host issues 20 object identifiers and then issues, as the aforementioned object identifiers are freed, additional object identifiers. However, at any given time, no more than 20 object identifiers, each of which is associated with a print object, are simultaneously handled by the printer.* (see Referenced Application, pp. 37-38).

With respect to the cited prior art, Pipeline, Gase, Sorber, and Osaku, whether viewed separately or in combination, are completely silent with respect to a printer simultaneously handling multiple print objects or having functionality to convey information to a host about the number of print objects the printer can simultaneously handle. Specifically, Pipeline only discloses printing from a PDA, etc. (see e.g., Pipeline, p. 450. Further, Gase only discloses a computer used to program a printer and send the settings to the printer. However, Gase does not teach or suggest sending a request to a printer concerning the number of print objects the printer can simultaneously handle. Moreover, Osaku only teaches URLs without any teaching or suggestion of a printer. Finally, Sorber only teaches data communication using a network and, like Osaku, does not even teach or suggest a printer.

In view of the above, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Sorber, and Osaku, whether viewed separately or in combination. Dependent claims are patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Sorber, and Osaku for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 37, 38, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pipeline in view of Gase and Osaku. Claims 37, 38, and 40 have been cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

* Note that the specifics of this example are not intended to limit the scope of the claims.

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Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pipeline in view of Gase and Osaku. Claim 35 has been cancelled by this reply. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

Claims 18-22, 28-34, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pipeline in view of Gase, U.S. Patent No. 5,138,696 ("Nagata"), and Osaku. To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Pipeline, Gase and Osaku fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of independent claim 1. Further, independent claim 18 includes at least the same patentable limitations as independent claim 1. In addition, Nagata fails to teach or suggest that which Pipeline, Gase and Osaku lack. This is evidenced by the fact that Nagata is only relied upon to teach storing a bit map (see Office Action mailed April 27, 2006, p. 14). In view of the above, amended independent claim 18 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Nagata, and Osaku, whether viewed separately or in combination. Dependent claims are patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Nagata, and Osaku for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pipeline in view of Gase, Sorber, Osaku, and U.S. Patent No. 6,307,637 ("Kujirai"). To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6 and 7 depend from amended independent claim 1. As discussed above, Pipeline, Gase, Sorber, Osaku, whether viewed separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Further, Kujirai fails to teach or suggest that which Pipeline, Gase, Sorber, and Osaku lack. This is evidenced by the fact that Kujirai is only relied upon to teach dividing a prescribed print area of a print recording medium into prescribed partial areas (see Office Action mailed April 27, 2006, p. 20).

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In view of the above, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Sorber, Osaku, and Kujirai, whether viewed separately or in combination. Dependent claims 6 and 7 are patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Sorber, Osaku, and Kujirai, for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pipeline in view of Gase, Sorber, Osaku, Kujirai, and U.S. Patent No. 5,218,460 ("Nakajima"). To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 depends from amended independent claim 1. As discussed above, Pipeline, Gase, Sorber, Osaku, and Kujirai whether viewed separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Further, Nakajima fails to teach or suggest that which Gase, Sorber, Osaku, and Kujirai lack. This is evidenced by the fact that Nakajima is only relied upon to teach "determining the arrangement area of the print objects..." (*see Office Action mailed April 27, 2006, p. 22*).

In view of the above, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Sorber, Osaku, Kujirai, and Nakajima whether viewed separately or in combination. Dependent claim 8 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Sorber, Osaku, Kujirai, and Nakajima for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pipeline in view of Gase, Sorber, Osaku, Kujirai, and U.S. Patent No. 6,411,396 ("Benson"). To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 9 and 10 depend from amended independent claim 1. As discussed above, Pipeline, Gase, Sorber, Osaku, and Kujirai whether viewed separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Further, Benson fails to

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teach or suggest that which Pipeline, Gase, Sorber, Osaku, and Kujirai lack. This is evidenced by the fact that Benson is only relied upon to teach "generating a prescribed band area worth of bit map..." (*see Office Action mailed April 27, 2006, p. 22*).

In view of the above, amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Sorber, Osaku, Kujirai, and Benson whether viewed separately or in combination. Dependent claims 9 and 10 are patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Sorber, Osaku, Kujirai, and Benson for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pipeline in view of Gase, Nagata, Osaku and Kujirai. To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 23 and 24 depend from amended independent claim 18. As discussed above, Pipeline, Gase, Nagata, and Osaku whether viewed separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of amended independent claim 18. Further, Kujirai fails to teach or suggest that which Pipeline, Gase, Nagata, and Osaku lack. This is evidenced by the fact that Kujirai is only relied upon to teach dividing a prescribed print area of a print recording medium into prescribed partial areas (*see Office Action mailed April 27, 2006, p. 24*).

In view of the above, amended independent claim 18 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Nagata, Osaku, and Kujirai whether viewed separately or in combination. Dependent claims 23 and 24 are patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Nagata, Osaku, and Kujirai for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pipeline in view of Gase, Nagata, Osaku, Kujirai, and Nakajima. To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Claim 25 depends from amended independent claim 18. As discussed above, Pipeline, Gase, Nagata, Osaku, and Kujirai whether viewed separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of amended independent claim 18. Further, Nakajima fails to teach or suggest that which Gase, Nagata, Osaku, and Kujirai lack. This is evidenced by the fact that Nakajima is only relied upon to teach "determining the arrangement area of the print objects..." (*see* Office Action mailed April 27, 2006, p. 25-26).

In view of the above, amended independent claim 18 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Nagata, Osaku, Kujirai, and Nakajima whether viewed separately or in combination. Dependent claim 25 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Nagata, Osaku, Kujirai, and Nakajima for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pipeline in view of Gase, Nagata, Osaku, Kujirai, and U.S. Patent No. 6,411,396 ("Benson"). To the extent that this rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 26 and 27 depend from amended independent claim 18. As discussed above, Pipeline, Gase, Osaku, and Nagata whether viewed separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of amended independent claim 18. Further, Benson fails to teach or suggest that which Pipeline, Gase, Osaku, and Nagata lack. This is evidenced by the fact that Benson is only relied upon to teach "generating a prescribed bandwidth..." (*see* Office Action mailed April 27, 2006, p. 26).

In view of the above, amended independent claim 18 is patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Osaku, Nagata, Kujirai, and Benson whether viewed separately or in combination. Dependent claims 26 and 27 are patentable over Pipeline, Gase, Osaku, Nagata, Kujirai, and Benson for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

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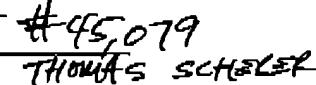
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Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04783/016001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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